



Rhode Island's Career Resource Network

News Corner

Volume 1, No. 4

Winter 2002

Support for Academic and Career Counseling Programs



Career Planning: Balancing Life and Work

Our efforts to assist students and clients in career planning are focused on preparation for work. Yet hidden in career planning standards and materials is the need to plan also for life outside of work, and the relationship between life and work.

Literature and materials on career counseling always stress the importance of an individual's self-understanding and knowledge of available resources. We see assessment tools to help identify interests, attitudes, transferable skills, and other areas. We see resources (computer-based and printed) to gather information on occupations and similar resources to obtain information on post-secondary education and training. We see labor market information including occupational and industry projections, wage, and unemployment data.

However, life is more complex than these resources alone indicate. Each person has many roles in life, including friend, student, worker, family member, parent, spouse, consumer, member of a community group, and others. These roles are interrelated and have a definite impact on career planning (positive or negative).

In considering transferable skills, some thought should be given to those skills which have been developed in various roles in life, and possibly overlooked. Being a friend provides an opportunity to acquire interpersonal skills. Being a member of a group provides opportunities to make decisions, set goals and take action to achieve goals. Being a consumer provides experience in setting priorities and allocating resources.

Career Clusters & Pathways Poster Now Available

The Career Clusters & Pathways poster illustrated here is available in 11x17 inch size from the CRN. This poster depicts all 16 Career Clusters and the Pathways within them.

To request a copy, send us a fax (462-8766) or e-mail (crn@dlt.state.ri.us) along with your complete postal address.



*Season's Greetings to All
From RI's Career Resource Network*

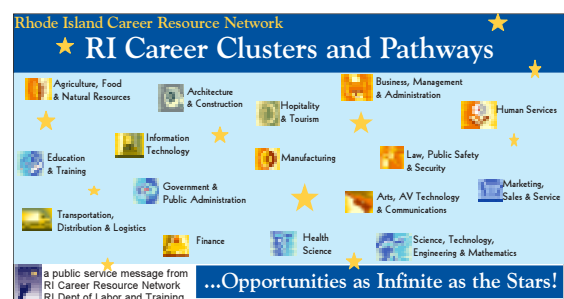
Thank you for your support throughout the year. We wish you a happy, healthy New Year.



The relationship between life and work is often included in career planning tools (although it is not always obvious). The National Career Development Guidelines and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Standards for School Counseling Programs include related standards. The National Standards, for example, state "Students will demonstrate the ability to balance school, studies, extracurricular activities, leisure time, and family life."

In The Real Game series, occupational descriptions include not just title, duties, income, and education, but also such details as vacation, references to friends, and conflicts between job duties and family life. The relationship between life and work is reflected in the name of the distributor of Real Game materials, the National Life/Work Center.

There is a life outside of work! And it is a part of career planning.





Real Game Series Training

Training for Real Game facilitators (teachers) will be offered starting in January. Each program in The Real Game Series is tailored to a specific range of age/grade levels, incorporates increasingly complex concepts and vocabulary, provides participants with different occupational roles, focuses on teamwork and community interactions, and employs a variety of effective learning techniques. Students learn career development concepts and vocabulary, take on and play life/work roles, create and act within a simulated society, explore occupations and lifestyles, examine the relation between education and career development, survey the changing world of work, and practice life/work skills.

Each workshop will be held at the Dept. of Labor & Training in Cranston from 8:30 to 3:00 on the dates listed below. Participants who are certified teachers will receive Professional Development credit. Each school or organization represented must have a kit for the game prior to the workshop. Details and registration forms are being mailed to schools and organizations with appropriate programs, and are also available to download from the CRN web site, www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn.

The Play Real Game (grades 3-4) is an innovative, experiential program in which students take on simulated adult work roles, create a town with services and businesses, and develop a presentation to attract a fictional company to the community. - Tuesday, January 28, 2003

The Real Game (grades 7-8) (revised) introduces students to aspects of the working world by taking on one of the 40 occupational roles in the kit. They learn about earning, budgeting, leisure time, and the effects of changing technology and global economic trends. In Rhode Island this game is usually used by family/consumer science teachers. - Tuesday, January 14, 2003 and Thursday, January 23, 2003

The Be Real Game (grades 9-10) introduces students to a series of work roles in which they apply for jobs and develop strategies to cope with job loss and change. It is an ideal prelude for later co-op education and work experience. - Wednesday, January 29, 2003 and Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Real Times/Real Life (adult) leads adults in transition to learn about the changing economy and workplace as they identify, explore, and develop their transferable skills. They acquire jobs, lose them, and learn strategies for finding new ones. Leaving their simulated roles, they create "real life" action plans to help increase their chances of workplace success. - Monday, January 27, 2003 and Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Occupational Focus:

Teacher Assistants

(SOC 25-9041)

Teacher assistants (aides) have been employed in many schools since federally funded programs came into being. A 1999 report from the U. S. Department of Education noted that in 1997-98 about two-thirds of all Title I schools used teacher assistants, "overwhelmingly to provide instruction."

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is bringing about many changes in education, including an increased emphasis on qualifications of teachers and other education personnel. The NCLB calls teacher assistants "paraprofessionals," and defines their qualifications and duties.

Under NCLB, paraprofessionals employed after January 8, 2002 must be high school graduates or have earned a GED, and must meet one of the following qualifications: complete at least 2 years of study at an institution of higher education; obtained an associate's (or higher) degree; or adhere to a rigorous standard of quality and can demonstrate, through a formal State or local academic assessment, knowledge and ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics. Paraprofessionals employed prior to January 8, 2002, must meet these requirements within four years after that date. Paraprofessionals who act primarily as translators or solely in conducting parental involvement activities are not required to meet the qualifications.

According to the NCLB, paraprofessionals may be assigned to provide one-on-one tutoring; assist with classroom management; provide assistance in a computer laboratory; conduct parental involvement activities; provide support in a library or media center; act as a translator; or provide instructional services to students under supervision of a teacher.

It remains to be seen whether NCLB will make education paraprofessionals a more desirable occupation. In any event this occupation may provide a way for talented but underqualified individuals to gradually work toward professional teacher status while continuing to be gainfully employed.

Additional information on The Real Game series may be obtained from the web site, www.realgame.org, or by calling the CRN.

What's New in the CRN Corner?



The Northeast Career Resource Network fall meeting was held in Rhode Island on November 13 & 14. Directors of the CRN's from seven of the northeast states met to plan joint activities and share products and concerns. Speakers included Dr. Lee Arnold, Director of the RI Dept. of Labor and Training, Dr. Cal Crow of the National Training Support Center, and Dr. Sandra Meggert of JBB Business.

Choices 2003 edition, recently distributed to users, is in a single version, replacing the former Choices and Choices CT. Users may select either "Adult" or "High School" when installing. The only difference is in the files which are activated, and this can be adjusted later using the System Manager program.

Choices training will be different this year. Two types of training will be offered. Introduction to Choices and Introduction to CX Online, half-day workshops, are for those who do not use one of these programs and would like to learn about it. Advanced Choices, for those who are familiar with Choices, is a full-day workshop to provide users with the ability to use the advanced features of Choices, including customizing. Announcements will be mailed in the near future, and are posted on the CRN web site (click on "Training"). The training schedule:

1/7/2003	Advanced Choices	CCRI Warwick campus
1/8/2003	Advanced Choices	CCRI Warwick campus
3/12/2003	Advanced Choices	CCRI Warwick campus
TBA	Introduction to Choices	
TBA	Introduction to Choices	
TBA	Introduction to Career Futures (for middle schools)	

Need Spanish materials? A CD-ROM with videos of workers in various occupations is available from the RI Career Resource Network. Each video is about three minutes, has a "voice over" description in Spanish, and is accompanied by labor market information (with California wage and projections data). It is used in many schools by Spanish teachers to provide language experience along with career education. The videos were developed by the New Jersey Career Resource Network and translated into Spanish by the California Career Resource Network.

The Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education web sites (see the spring edition of CRN News Corner, available on the CRN web site) are now available in Spanish:

www.ribghe.org/col-prepsp.htm - Preparing for College
www.ribghe.org/ritransferssp.htm - RI Transfers

Health occupations material, including videos, brochures, and posters (many in Spanish as well as English) are available from the Health Partnership Council. Contact Ruth Ricciarelli at 274-1838 or e-mail at ruthr@hari.org.

2003 Connecticut Learns and Works Conference will be April 10, 2003 at Waters Edge, Westbrook, CT. Rhode Islanders are welcome, too. Topics include career development by employers, understanding money in our lives, construction career day, adult education model program, internships and co-op, career and technical student organizations, and entrepreneurship. Mark the date. More information will be included in the next CRN News Corner.

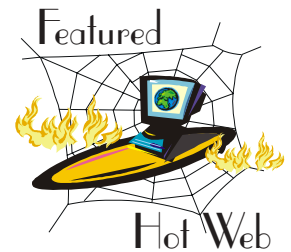
Facilitating Career Development, the course required for certification as a Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF), is now being offered by the CRN. There are currently over 2,400 certified GCDFs in 50 states and territories and at least three other countries. Fifty one have completed or are taking the course in Rhode Island, and approximately 35 have earned certification. The course, originally developed for staff of One-Stop Centers, is appropriate for anyone who assists clients, customers, or students with career planning.

Do you have comments or suggestions on the contents of our CRN News Corner? Do you have information that you'd like us to publish? If so, please write, call, fax or e-mail us at:

Career Resource Network

Thomas Culhane, Career Resource Network Manager
RI Department of Labor and Training
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920
(401) 462-8790 phone, (401) 462-8766 fax
tculhane@dlt.state.ri.us
www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn

A Web Site Worth Surfing:



Students, parents, and educators who need information about planning for college will find the iApply web site valuable. The site is divided into three main sections - *A guide for Students*, *Help for Parents* and *Tips for Educators*. Each section includes information about Paying for College, Applying to College, and Preparing for College.

For example, "Paying for College" in the *Guide for Students* section provides information on the cost and methods of payment and a separate section on borrowing. The same topic under *Help for Parents* displays pertinent information for partners in somewhat less detail than for students. *Tips for Educators* leads to twelve lesson plans, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, a scholarship search, and other useful tools to assist educators in helping students and parents understand how to plan for, apply to and pay for college. In addition, a student calendar, a glossary and an option to subscribe to a free monthly newsletter can be accessed from almost any screen on the site.

Bridges.com, the company that produces the popular career planning computer programs, Choices and Choices CX Online, manages iApply, along with partners Sallie Mae and wiredscholar.com, Peterson's and the Thomson Corporation, and the Xap Corporation.

The web address for this great site is: <http://iapply.bridges.com/index.htm>